THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) It is a fact that earlier the National Institute of Rural Development used to conduct a training or orientation programme for the Probationers of Indian Foreign Service.

(b) The training programme at the National Institute of Rural Development was started for the IFS Probationers of 1976 batch and was conducted also for the 1977 and 1978 batches of the IFS, that is for a total of three years. This training was discontinued thereafter.

(c) It was felt in the main, that Probationers were already being exposed to the problems and tasks of rural development during the course of their district training.

(d) No, Sir.

Establishment of Propellent Factory at Warangal In Andhra Pradesh

*458. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that a proposal for the establishment of Propellant Factory at Warangal in Andhra Pradesh is pending with Government for some time ; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) In connection with a proposal for the setting up of a propellant factory in the country, various sites, including Warangal, have been evaluated by a Site Selection Committee. govvernment are yet to take a decision in the matter.

Fifth Generation Computer Systems

*459. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has so far been made at the six nodal centres by the Deptt. of Electronics in the Research and Development of knowledge based computer system/ Fifth Generation Computor Systems;

(b) what is the stage as at present of the research in the field of natural language for computers conducted at National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) Bombay and whether it has been found that Sanskrit language can serve as the best computer language far "Artificial Intelligence"; and

(c) whether a project for this purpose has been forwarded under the FGCS/KBCS programme: and is so, what is its outline and programme in phases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The progress made by the six nodal centres of the Department of Electronics (DOE) in the Research and Development of knowledge Based Computer system/Fifth Generation Computer System is as follows :

(i) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has designed a Parallel Processing Machine based on 8088 processor for Logic Programming. The machine can be upgraded to 80386 processors. Further work on the system is underway.